

EXCESS PROFITS TAX IN DISFAVOR IS LANE'S REPORT

Former Secretary of Interior
Discusses Housing Situation,
High Living Cost,
Labor Shortage, Etc.

WHO IS CORRESPONDENT?

Franklin K. Lane, former Secretary of the Interior, today issued a summary of what he calls "the first comprehensive, carefully made and approximately accurate picture of industrial, agricultural, financial and political conditions throughout the United States."

It discloses in the foreground, he says, that both major political parties have overlooked the greatest issue in the public mind, which is the cost of living. It also shows, he states, that the country is in a sound economic basis, with the wave of extravagance subsiding, saving increasing, wholesalers and retailers optimistic over the winter outlook, and a growing disposition for hard work, although the individual productivity of labor is not yet showing much evidence of increase.

Mr. Lane's statement summarizes a survey made through 500 field representatives of the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland and covers every section of the country. Manufacturers, merchants, chambers of commerce, bankers, lawyers, business men and farmers were questioned in an effort to mirror the immediate economic and political situation and obtain a consensus of representative opinion as to the future. The replies from all localities were made simultaneously by telegraph.

In a preface to his analysis of the survey, Mr. Lane says: "With the presidential election but six weeks away and the winter rapidly approaching, many thoughtful people stand hesitant and undecided, finding difficulty because of the general lack of knowledge of business conditions outside their own locality or interest. The general tendency has been to see what the next man thinks, with the uncomfortable feeling that his guess is better than another's. I believe for this reason, the picture, presented in the tabulated analysis made by the Fidelity and Deposit company, is of interest to every business man and other voter. While it is not of course, perfect in detail and exact in prophecy, it is as clear and valuable a conspectus of present conditions as can be gathered."

Under the heading of industrial conditions, Mr. Lane says: "Economically, the United States is shown to better off than any other country in the world. There is no evidence of idleness. Our people have the opportunity to work and are at work."

"There is no shortage of raw material sufficient to curtail production reported from any of the nine geographical divisions into which the country was divided for the purpose of the survey. Only in the district including Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Wisconsin is there evidence of a lack of orders. New England industries report a number of cancellations, but there, as elsewhere, manufacturers are well filled with calls for their products. Transportation conditions are improving everywhere and a substantial reduction in the freight car shortage is reported in every district except in the Rocky mountain states. In the Southwest and in the district including Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, although an improvement is noted in the latter district."

"A shortage of coal and the failure of labor to increase individual productivity appear to be the only two unfavorable aspects in the immediate industrial situation. The Rocky mountain and Pacific states report a sufficient supply of fuel. All other sections of the country are feeling the shortage, but it is apparently least felt by the South Atlantic states."

Wages Higher.

"Although labor is costing still more than it did last year, it apparently is producing no more. Wages have advanced from 10 to 15 per cent in the last 12 months, and yet nowhere is there reported increase in productivity per man. I am not expecting that the cost of labor will fall off even in the worst of times to its prewar stage, for I believe that the real differential between direct manual labor will never again be as great as it has been."

"So far as the distribution of labor is concerned, the situation naturally appears to be well equalized. A shortage of labor is found only in the Middle and South Atlantic states and this is largely of unskilled workers. In the rest of the country the demand and supply appear balanced. Only in some sections of the Middle Atlantic States is any unemployment noted and this is in certain of the skilled trades, chiefly in the building and shipbuilding trades. An important disclosure of the survey is the seriousness of the housing situation. In many of the larger industrial centers, where the shortage has been most acute, the investigation of the Fidelity and Deposit company has disclosed building activity to be decreasing instead of increasing."

"The call for buildings comes loudest from the most essential places of

manufacture, rather than from the retail centers and is for low-priced dwellings. Building construction is increasing in New England, but the bulk of the construction is in factories, warehouses and stores. New York, Pennsylvania and most of the other great industrial states of the East and Middle West show a falling off in building operations. There is improvement in the housing situation in Southern and Pacific coast industrial centers, with special emphasis on the erection of workmen's homes."

"In no section of the country did the investigators find sentiment in favor of government ownership of the railroads, and everywhere better transportation conditions are reported."

"Agriculture is generally recognized as the backbone of the country, and the farming situation is excellent, from no section has an unfavorable report been received. Our farmers appear everywhere to be in too happy a mood to permit at this time the cynicism, the farmer is always grumbling. They are well supplied with funds from the sale of their crops, but they are wise in that they know that more favorable marketing conditions will be realized in the future. The situation in the various sections of the country is as follows: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and other central states are withholding grain."

Money Is Tight.

"In the financial field, money is tight. That may mean several things: first, that money is being hoarded; second, that the banks attempt to get what they can out of the present situation; third, that there is an inadequate supply of money; or, fourth, that those who have money lack confidence."

"There are other reasons, no doubt, and among them that the dollar now buys less than heretofore, people with money wish to charge more for the service that money gives. None can accurately say which of these causes is the most important factor, but probably all contribute to the present situation."

"The telegraphic reports from every section of the country state that the banks are well loaned up, although money is available in the East and central districts from 6 to 8 per cent interest. The Southwest, Rocky mountain and Pacific states report the highest interest rates, averaging from 8 to 10 per cent, and in the mountain districts as high as 12 per cent."

"There is great encouragement, however, to be drawn from the fact that in only one of the nine geographical divisions, the Rocky mountain, has there been a decrease in bank deposits during the last six months. While the general increase includes corporate deposits, individual savings accounts show a more marked improvement everywhere. This seems to show clearly that the orgy of spending and extravagance is over."

"Discounting of bills by industrial concerns is universally reported. Except in the Middle Atlantic, Southwest, Rocky mountain and Pacific coast states, manufacturers appear to be carrying large amounts of customers' paper."

In Bad Favor.

"The country does not like the present taxation system. The excess profits tax is in bad favor everywhere. Opinion is divided, however, as to the substitute. In the East and Central West, sentiment runs strongly for a sales tax, but elsewhere, opinion as to a substitute is divided."

"We are not yet masters of the art of distribution of products. The fact that the farmers uniformly report a desire for some co-operative method by which their products can be brought to consumers means that this problem is one of the greatest of the future. But it is not the farmers' benefit primarily that such a movement must quickly culminate in action. The consumer feels that somewhere between the farmer and himself, too much is taken for a service of comparatively insignificant value in contrast with that which the producer himself renders."

"The farmers apparently are not alone in desiring co-operative action. The survey shows opposition to co-operative movements only in the New England and Pacific coast districts. Sentiment is divided in Ohio, Illinois and the other North Central Western states, but favorable in the Middle Atlantic, the South Central and the Southern states."

"Politically, the replies indicate that it is too early to tell what the outcome of the November election will be. Three months ago, there was a stronger Republican sentiment than there appears to be now. The trend has been, and is, Republican. What it will be in November these gentlemen do not prophesy."

"The large outstanding face developed by the Fidelity and Deposit company seems to be that the greatest issue in the public mind is being overlooked by the campaigners—the high cost of living. I think this conclusion might be well justified, but the blame should not be cast upon the producer, and certainly the farmer has not received his share of the wealth which he creates."

"The cost of living and foreign relations seem to be the most important. Taxation and industrial relations also occupy a place in the general political thought. Least interest appears to be shown in the railroad policy of the present administration, radical movements and prohibition."

"It is clear that the country is on a sound economic basis, and there is generally a spirit of confidence in the future, regardless of the outcome of the election."

WILHELMINA ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR BIGGER ARMY

THE HAGUE, Sept. 22.—Queen Wilhelmina, at the opening of parliament yesterday, said the relations of the Netherlands with foreign countries had been maintained in a generally satisfactory manner. The situation in Europe, however, was uncertain and complicated, and the prospects held out by the league of nations with regard to the future relations of the various states had not been realized."

Under these circumstances, she added, measures for the reinforcement of the active forces of Holland would be adopted, while the pressure of military armaments, individually and financially, would be lessened."

The queen announced a partial revision of the constitution.

RADICALS IN MINE UNION ARE DEFEATED

Conservatives, Headed by
Lewis, Win Nominations.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Sept. 22.—The radical element in the United Mine Workers of America has failed in its efforts to win the majority of the nominations for national officers of the organization, it was announced at the close of the convention here last night. The board of international officers announced that President John L. Lewis, conservative, had been renominated by a vote of 926 to 484 over Robert H. Harlan, of Washington, for international president. Vice-president Philip Murray, of Pennsylvania, defeated Alexander Howat, of Kansas, for the nomination for international vice-president, 740 to 367. William Green, international secretary and treasurer, was renominated without opposition, receiving the endorsement of 1,546 local unions.

Each of the nearly 4,000 local unions of the organization has the right to make nominations, said the announcement. The fight against Lewis and Murray was bitter, it was stated, especially that in behalf of Howat.

The radicals inside the organization were assisted by extreme radicals from the outside in the hope that control of the United Mine Workers might be seized by the radical element, said the statement in conclusion.

Connecticut Votes Again On Suffrage To Make O. K. Sure

HARTFORD, Conn., Sept. 22.—Connecticut, which its general assembly late yesterday, ratified the federal woman suffrage amendment, in a special session convened by Gov. Marcus H. Holcomb for that purpose. The senate first acted on a certified copy of the federal amendment sent from Washington, ratifying 25 to 9 and the house concurred by a vote of 194 to 9.

Negro Denies He Admitted Crimes Of Murder And Assault

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Sept. 22.—Taking the stand late this afternoon Taylor Neal, a negro youth accused jointly with C. J. Jackson, another young negro, of the murder of Abo Baron, well-known young white man, and attempted assault on a girl companion, denied in toto that he had confessed the crime, as claimed by the police. The defendant testified that city detectives had threatened him in an effort to make him sign a confession but that he had refused, although a document bearing his signature was produced at the trial.

The crime for which the negroes are on trial was unusually brutal, young Baron being killed in cold blood when he stopped at the outskirts of the city one night last month to put up the curtains on his automobile. Following the killing an attempt was made to assault a young woman who accompanied Baron.

Read News Scimitar Wants.

TELEGRAPH BRIEFS

PHILADELPHIA.—Dr. Eric Doolittle, distinguished astronomer, is dead. He was director of the Flower observatory of the University of Pennsylvania and regarded as an authority on double stars.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—With the selection of Charlotte, N. C., as the next meeting place and the election of Clarence E. Carpenter, of King's Mountain, N. C., as president, the veterans of the 81st (Wildcat) division closed their first annual reunion here.

NEW YORK.—A nation-wide campaign among citizens of Italian extraction in behalf of the Republican nominees for president and vice-president was decided upon here at the national conference of the Italian-American Republican league.

CHICAGO.—Frank B. Willis, Republican nominee for senator from Ohio, and William G. McAdoo, former secretary of the treasury, are scheduled to make political speeches before the Political League of Chicago at a meeting here Oct. 2. McAdoo will interpret Democratic issues and Willis will answer him.

NEW ORLEANS.—Monthly steamship service between New Orleans and Brazil was assured when the Brazilian government notified the local agents of the Lloyd Brasileiro line that the Maranguape, Campos and Uberaba, passenger-carrying steamers, had been allotted to the New Orleans-Brazil trade.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Bonds of the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph company, Nashville Light and Power company and Anglo-French war bonds, valued at \$18,000, recovered through the arrest in San Francisco recently of Jim Smith, 21, and Charles Guthrie, 16, are the property of R. P. Daniel, Jr., prominent attorney of this city, police announced.

CHICAGO.—After paying all expenses and taxes and declaring dividends totaling \$2,939,800, the Pullman company had \$3,213,709.11 left from the year ending July 31 to apply to the surplus fund, the annual report shows. The total net revenue for the year was \$14,519,777.29.

CLEMENCEAU TO HUNT.

PARIS, Sept. 22.—M. Clemenceau left Paris yesterday for Marselles, where he will embark for India. The former premier will spend several weeks hunting in the Himalayas.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—The Third Infantry, known as the oldest regiment in the United States army, with a record of achievement dating back to 1794, celebrated its 126th anniversary of organization at its headquarters at Camp Eagle Pass, on the Texas-Mexican border.

PARIS.—Walker D. Hines, the American arbitrator in the waterways question, has been accepted by Germany "in the interest of peace and the speedy reconstruction of Europe." Germany had protested against appointment of Mr. Hines on the ground that he was a citizen of a country with which Germany is at war.

LONDON.—A Teheran, Persia, dispatch to the Daily Mail reports that the Bolsheviks have completely evacuated the important Caspian sea port, of Baku.

Shot From Ambush; Brother-In-Law Is Charged With Crime

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 22.—Yard Stonewall was shot and instantly killed near his home at Petros, and Dave Jones is in jail here charged with murder. It is reported that Jones shot Stonewall from ambush with a shot-gun. Jones and Stonewall are brothers-in-law and had feeling has existed between them for several years, it is said.

INSPECTS JACKSON GUARD

JACKSON, Tenn., Sept. 22. (Sp.)—Adj.-Gen. E. B. Sweeney of the national guards of Tennessee was in Jackson Tuesday night to inspect Company 1, local national guard unit.

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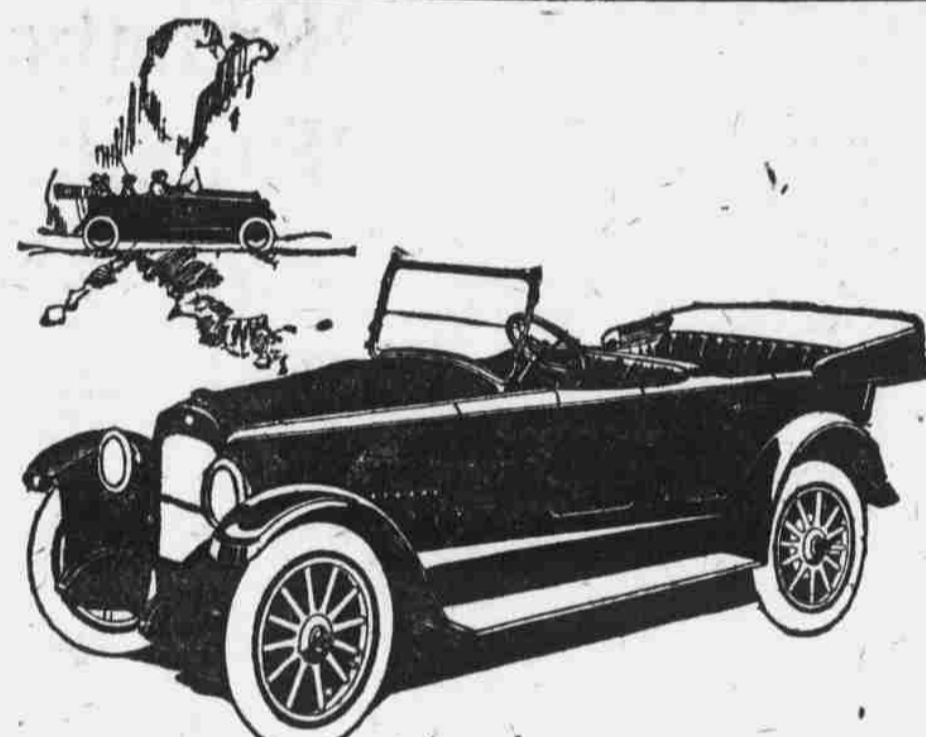
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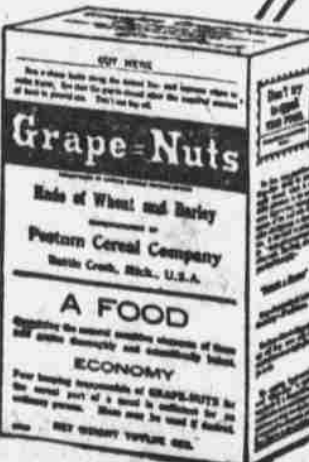
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